

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access.

a 33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the information used to determine the validity includes an access level identifier and the validity of the request is determined based upon comparing an access level associated with the request with the access level identifier.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said access indicators include a resource characteristic and determining the validity of a request further includes comparing information contained in the access request with said resource characteristic.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the resource characteristic includes one of a resource identifier, resource type, copyright information, type of allowed use, type of allowed user, availability, size, and access level identifier.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to add an access indicator, thereby expanding the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to remove an access indicator, thereby reducing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

38. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more requests to access a system; and

for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access vector comprised of one or more access indicators, wherein only one request at a time uses the access vector.

39. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein said access indicators contain information used to determine validity of the request for access.

40. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the information used to determine the validity includes an access level identifier and the validity of the request is determined based upon comparing an access level associated with the request with the access level identifier.

41. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein said access indicators include a resource characteristic and determining the validity of a request

further includes comparing information contained in the access request with said resource characteristic.

42. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein the resource characteristic includes one of a resource identifier, resource type, copyright information, type of allowed use, type of allowed user, availability, size, and access level identifier.

43. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to add an access indicator, thereby expanding the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

44. (New) The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises manipulating the access vector to remove an access indicator, thereby reducing the number of simultaneous accesses to the system.

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